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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Tanikka Brooks, age 26 of Alexandria, Virginia, pleaded guilty today before the Honorable Claude M. Hilton, United States District Judge, to bank fraud. Sentencing is scheduled for April 29, 2005, at which time she faces a maximum sentence of 30 years incarceration and a maximum fine of \$1 million.

Brooks worked as a receptionist at Community Family Life Services, Inc., an organization devoted to providing counseling services to indigent residents of Washington, D.C. She intercepted \$21,596.50 in Social Security and other benefit checks issued to indigent persons in the Washington, D.C. area, endorsed the checks to herself, and deposited them into her bank account without the knowledge or consent of the intended individuals.

Mr. McNulty said: "Ms. Brooks used her position to take advantage of some of our most vulnerable individuals. We will continue to work aggressively to prosecute these predators."

This case was investigated by agents of the Social Security Administration. Special Assistant United States Attorney Josh Jones is handling the prosecution for the United States.

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